

THE BRITISH COLONIST

Friday Morning, Nov. 24, 1865.

To Advertisers & the Public

THE BRITISH COLONIST, published every Tuesday, will be mailed or left at the largest and most widely circulated journal in Her Majesty's Possessions on the Pacific.

THE BRITISH COLONIST, published every Tuesday, will be mailed or left at the residence of Subscribers, ready for mailing, at 25 cents per week, payable to the Postmaster.

JOB PRINTING.

THE BRITISH COLONIST, published every Tuesday, having received a large number of orders, will accept no more, excepting those which will excite orders to any extent, with restlessness and despatch, at a slight advance on San Francisco prices.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

In future all notices of Births, Deaths, and Marriages intended for insertion in this paper must be paid at the following rates: For Births and Marriages, \$1 50; for Deaths, \$1; with funeral notice \$1 50.

MR. MACFIE'S BOOK.

The volume which the Rev. Mr. Macfie has lately contributed to English literature is a remarkable production in its way. Few works, we feel bound to say, show such miraculous versatility of talent. One moment we are treated to a page of the most scandalous gossip, and the next we are brought face to face with Max Muller. In one page is depicted the character of Alexander the Great, and in another the life of King Freozy. If we want arguments to sustain the free port, Mr. Macfie plunges into ancient and modern history, and shows us how the "Tyrians, Greeks, Romans, Saracens, Venetians, Portuguese, Dutch and English" became commercial people,—how Mahomet, with an eye to business, desired his followers on their pilgrimages to Mecca, to vary the monotony of their religious journey by doing a little in the way of trade,—how Alexandria flourished and Palmyra decayed,—all of which it is of the very greatest importance to know in our present unsotted condition. Not ancient and modern history, however, nor gossip nor scandal contenteth Mr. Macfie. Mineralogy, ethnology, theology, geology, philology, entomology, zoology, ornithology, astrology, and even entomology are made to bear tribute to the work. The only "ology" in fact we cannot find is the one we should most expect of all others from the reverend gentleman—*we mean the doxology*. We have the mining theory and experience exhausted, we have the shells and the birds and the animals of these colonies treated scientifically, we have the Indians, the Chinese, and the colored races discussed with the air of a Durwin and a Huxley. The continent is spanned by a high way to take those irrepressible spires and stumps from India to England: a profitable scheme is opened up to a steam company that will provide us with direct communication to Panama; emigration, colonial government, and politics are all treated with the soberness of a Ricardo or Adam Smith. We defy in fact any one to produce such an *olla podrida* of subjects in one volume as Mr. Macfie does before his readers. With some of these subjects Mr. Macfie is about as much conversant as a Feijoa with a quadrant, with others the little knowledge the writer possesses is so inextricably entangled with prejudice that the whole value of the matter written upon is lost; with others he shows a most intimate acquaintance and has in this particular respect given to the world a most valuable collection of facts.

If we were to point out the subjects in which Mr. Macfie seems to have got hopelessly lost, we should say commerce and politics. Of all the irrational and inconsistent essays we have ever perused we think his incubations on these heads may fairly bear the palm. He first starts out with that uncomfortable load upon his shoulders—"the grandeur of the free port,"—and every step he takes, commercially or politically, is the zigzag, tottering gait of a man who is overburdened. Every absurd idea that has been iterated about our commercial policy he reiterates and endorses. "Thus, as was remarked by the *Times*," he says "we are enabled to feed the hungry and clothe the naked in the neighboring States; and the New York correspondent of that paper, in a letter published in September, said:—'British goods paying no duty from Victoria in Vancouver Island into California, whose citizens are thus enabled to clothe themselves in purple and fine linen' is beyond conception; but what must we think of his knowledge of the places he writes about when he maintains the *Times*' correspondent's vagary that because Victoria is a free port the goods we send to California "pay no tribute to the Washington treasury." This gives a fair idea of Mr. Macfie's knowledge of our commercial position and prepares us for his assertion that union of the colonies is secondary to the free port. A little further on he tells us that Vancouver Island has land to support millions of a population—that a farming population is indispensable to a colony's prosperity—and then informs us that "there is no industrial interest in Vancouver Island worth protecting."

Mr. Macfie is by no means a radical in politics. He thinks the colony should never have possessed representative institutions, and has an immense admiration for a Colonial autocracy, which he recommends as the best system of Government for Vancouver Island. "Were irresponsible power," says Mr. Macfie, "lodged in the hands of an accredited and well-tried Governor appointed by the Crown, there would be a safer guarantee that useful laws would be more expeditiously passed, and the interests of the people more effectually promoted." Mr. Macfie is a genuine free porter: he would have the port of Victoria free, but he would have the inhabitants under the liberal regime of a Turkish or Russian province. Like his consistency in the commercial arguments, he shortly afterwards shows us how necessary is a representative Legislature. Speaking of the refusal of the Assembly to endorse the Duke of Newcastle's proposition on the civil list he says:—"The Legislature, having custody of the public rights simple, felt compelled to join issue with the Imperial Government on a measure which, if adopted according to the instructions of the Duke of Newcastle, must in the opinion of the House have entailed taxation, which would be

found oppressive to a population so small as is at present in the colony."

When Mr. Macfie, however, gets out of what are evidently to him the intricacies of commerce and politics he gives us a very readable and instructive book. He presents to the general public a mass of exceedingly useful information about the resources of both colonies—the gold, the silver, copper, coal, timber, fish, furs and agriculture. He affords the people of the mother country every information that an intending emigrant should know. The prices of all kinds of labor are remarkably correct for a book of the kind, and the advice tendered to the emigrant is unexceptionable.

Although written in common-place style, Mr. Macfie has managed on the whole to turn out a very interesting book. One of the few few we experienced on reading its pages, outside the commercial and political topics is that he should have been led, through personal feeling, to speak so disrespectfully of Sir James Douglas. It is one thing concerning the policy of an administration and another launching personal vituperation at its head. The gossip also in which some of the heads about do not add to the tone of the work. A little more discretion in the use of incidents would have been an improvement. When a man, however, undertakes to write a book of nearly six hundred pages, about such sparingly peopled countries as Vancouver Island and British Columbia, he must be very particular about the matter with which it is to be filled; and so on this ground, we presume, we must overlook the little bits of scandal and the rather irrelevant subjects—scientific and historical—with which Mr. Macfie has so copiously interlarded—what we must acknowledge, in publisher's phrasology to be after all a "readable and interesting book."

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Sporborg & Rueff,

COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

Importers and Wholesale Dealers

—IN—

Groceries, Provisions,

Boots and Shoes.

WHARF STREET..... VICTORIA, V. I.

no 24 & W. 11

REMOVAL.

EUGENE THOMAS,

Wholesale and Retail

Wine and Liquor Merchant,

111 REMOVED FROM THE PREMISES

111 lately occupied by him, to the Brick Store on the opposite side of Yates street, facing Washington Alley.

no 24

PISCO. PISCO.

THE NEW DRINK!

AT THE

FASHION HOTEL.

no 23

To the Gentlemen of Victoria:

BRITISH COLUMBIA,

AND PUGET SOUND.

ANDREW ROBERTSON,

Merchant Tailor,

GOVERNMENT STREET,

(Opposite the Bank of British Columbia,) beg

to announce that he has just received Ex Philomath, and per last Steamer from San Francisco.

French Doekins, Beavers, Witneys

AND A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF

English and Scotch Tweeds,

West of England Broadcloths,

All shades, etc., etc.

The Latest English and American Fashions reg

ularly received.

ANDREW ROBERTSON,

GOVERNMENT STREET

no 23

Italia Punch.

—AT THE—

FASHION HOTEL.

BROOKS & PATTERSON;

Proprietors

no 23

FOR SALE.

A HAY-MARE 6 YEARS OLD,

fully mounted, perfectly trained, and suitable for a lady. Can be seen at Lester & Dunlap's stables, Broad street.

DAVID H. BLAIR,

Secretary.

no 22

For Cowichan, Maple Bay,

Salt Spring Island and

Coxon.

THE SLOOP HAMLEY, CAPT.

Patton, will sail for the above places on

SATURDAY NEXT, the 25th instant, from Broad street, carrying freight and passengers.

For freight or passage apply to the Captain on board

no 21

Music and French Glasses.

MADAME LANGE, RECENTLY ARRIVED from Paris, intends opening a class for French conversation.

TERMS, \$5 PER MONTH.

Private lessons on the Piano, Soliloquy Singing, French and English Language, on reasonable terms.

For particulars apply to Mr. Sanderson, no 115

no 115

For Puget Sound!

THE STEAMER

"ELIZA ANDERSON,"

D. H. FINCH, MANAGER,

LYNN VICTORIA,

Every Thursday Morning, at 5 o'clock,

—FOR

OLYMPIA, and Way-Ports,

Taking passengers and freight.

For Superior facilities for carrying Cattle,

no 1

ARCHD. MATHESON,

Accountant,

AND

General Agent.

OFFICE—in Copland's Brick Building, Bastion

no 1

Engines, Boilers, &c.,

Complete, for a Stern-wheel Boat, 10 feet beam,

by 8 to 90 feet long,

FOR SALE VERY CHEAP.

ALSO,

Stationary Engines and Boilers of all

kinds and sizes,

E. STEEN,

NOV. 24, 1865,

Cor. Mission and Fisgard streets,

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COMMERCIAL

AUCTION SALES THIS DAY.

J. A. McCREA will sell, at 11 a.m., the Furniture and Fixtures of the Miners' Exchange, Waddington Alley, also Bar Rooms and Gas Fixtures, and the Lease of the premises.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

ENTR'D.
Nov. 23—Sloop Ocean Queen, Watkins, Captain CLEARED.

Nov. 23—Brig Brewster, Carlton, Port Angeles
Dark Dawler, Shillaber, Port Angeles
Stern Enterprise, Mount, New Westminster
Schooner Star, San Juan
Schooner Meg Merrillee, Pamphlet, Nasino

THEATRE—The romantic and extraordinary story of the sentimental gardener's son, Claude Melnotte, falling desperately in love with a fair and accomplished damsel of high degree would seem to possess perennial interest with modern playgoers. The improbability of the plot is overlooked in the impassioned eloquence with which the smitten swain pleads his cause, the moral cowardice of the hero is forgotten in the glittering rhetoric in which the low-born peasant clothes his absurd infatuation. We all like to see the conventionalities of life set at defiance, however extravagant the means that may be employed from dramatic exigencies, to tickle the fancy of the listeners. With what breathless attention we hang upon the moody soliloquies of the pseudo Prince of Connemara, the sentimental gardener who, like the young Pauline, is humiliated by the nefarious designs of a pair of/molotanistic villains, gaily attired in lace apparel, who from motives of a mean revenge seek to encompass her ruin. Beautiful females in distress never fail to enlist the sympathies of the habitues of boxes and pit, and fierce is the indignation at the grievous wrongs inflicted upon injured innocence and cupids is the flow of "pearly drops" at the happy reconciliation of the two.

However notwithstanding the meretricious imagery with which the dialogue of the Lady of Lyons abounds, and the rank claptrap of the situations there can be no doubt of its popularity as much as the ingenuity of its construction entitles it to a high position as an artistic composition. This play was produced last night for the benefit of Mr. Buckley, who assumed the part of the disconsolate Claude Melnotte. He manifested considerable intelligence in the conception of the character, and played with great effect, arising simply from want of experience. With every disposition to encourage rising talent, we must remind Mr. Buckley that he has yet to learn some of the first principles of elevation. In some of the most effective passages his ignorance of correct emphasis was painfully apparent. The poetical description of his ideal palace, "Hitting to eternal summer in marble walls," was mournfully rendered, instead of being delivered with the dash and dash of a master.

GAZETTE NOTICES—The tender of Mr. John Parker has been accepted for repairing the Methos road. In consequence of the high rates charged for blasting the rock at Government House, no tenders have been accepted. Tenders are required at the Colonial Office, up to noon of the 11th proximo, for supplying the local government with such quantities of all or any of the following articles as may be required during the year 1866, viz.: Beef, vegetables, bread, tea, soap (yellow), coffee, (two), soda, (salt), brooms, blacking matches, candles, coal, sugar, salt, coal (V. C.), wood and water pipes, for lighting, &c., and other supplies, "viz": Provisions, coal, and water, to be supplied to the Race Course and Esquimalt Light-houses during the year 1866. Tenders are also required at the same time and place for printing the Government Gazette for the ensuing year.

SOLD AND GOT THE MONEY—Yesterday morning a Kanaka entered a fruit shop on Johnson street, kept by an Italian, and purchased a piece of tobacco, in payment of which he handed the unsuspecting vendor a \$2 bank note, and received the change in silver. Last evening the same individual again presented himself at the fruit shop and bought two bits worth of grapes, handing the shopkeeper a \$1 note. It happened, however, that the Italian had no change, and had to seek it from a neighbor, who informed him that the note was valueless. He thereupon rushed back, collared the astonished Kanaka, and demanded the former money back. The fellow pretended to feel in his pocket, and the moment the Italian released his hold made a break and ran off. The note proved to be one of the Indiana State Bank of Mount Vernon.

THE ATTENDANCE OF JURORS—One or two applications were made yesterday to the Chief Justice to be released from jury duty, but His Honor would receive no excuse that were not weighty and urgent. It may be well to state here that the judge cautions some jurors recently summoned in a civil case, that he should in future rigidly enforce the fine of \$25 on all jurors failing to heed their summonses.

DEBATING SOCIETY—The doubt "whether it solved that imprisonment for debt ought to be abolished" was discussed before the Debating class of the Mechanics' Institute last evening. Messrs. Searby, Babbitt and Fell were the advocates of the abolition and Messrs. R. Wallace, W. J. Hall, A. Watson, Flint and others, against. The result of the vote on the question was as follows: five in favor of the resolution and fifteen opposed.

NEW IDEA—This popular place of amusement was crowded last evening. The first part of the entertainment consisted of songs, comic and sentimental, and Highland dances. The comic farce of the "Masquerade Ball" caused much merriment, the principle characters being taken by R. G. Marsh and Tom Latont, and concluded the programme of the evening.

THE WAY OF TRANSGESSORS IS HARD—A singular intrigue is mentioned in late New York papers, the facts being as follows:—The son of a millionaire pork packer married the niece of an ex-President and lived happily with her for two years; but though she was an excellent wife, he deserted her for an opera singer, and was disdained by his father. As a master of course he espoused the Southern side in the late civil war, and being arrested, was imprisoned for two years. When released he went to Canada, where he became acquainted with a young woman calling herself Mrs. Emily Frones Elliot, and who claims to be of royal blood. Mrs. Elliot is handsome, well educated and accomplished. At an early age she was com- pleted by her father to marry Major Fitzgerald, of the British army, who was some 30 years older than herself. This alliance was disastrous to her, and she entered at the Southern side in the late civil war, and being arrested, was imprisoned for two years.

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